



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/474,404	12/29/1999	GREG GRIFFITH	BELL-0008/99	2201

7590

04/25/2003

STEVEN H MEYER
WOODCOCK WASHBURN KURTZ
MACKIEWICZ & NORRIS LLP
ONE LIBERTY PLACE 46TH FLOOR
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

EXAMINER

YANG, CLARA I

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2635

DATE MAILED: 04/25/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/474,404

Applicant(s)

GRIFFITH ET AL.

Examiner

Clara Yang

Art Unit

2635

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 December 1999.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 December 1999 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

2. Claims 1 - 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,497,339 (Bernard).

Referring to Claims 1 and 2 Bernard teaches a communications device 100 or cradle (see Fig. 2) for a personal digital assistant (PDA) 102. Because PDAs (such as the Palm™ VII manufactured by Palm, Inc.) are known to have wireless communications ability, it is understood that Bernard's PDS is a portable communications device (PCD). As shown in Figs. 2 and 3, Bernard's communications device 100 has: (a) a serial/power interface connector 60 (or port connector) for coupling with the externally accessible DC power connector 50 and serial

interface connector 52 (see Fig. 1) of the accepted PDA 102; (b) phone jack 118 and cellular telephone 126 or network connectors for coupling PDA 102 to a public switched telephone network (PSTN) or a mobile switching network, i.e., second networks (see Fig. 3); and (c) phone modem 114, which is used for interfacing between primary serial port 106 and phone jack 118, and decoder/multiplexer 112, which is used for interfacing between primary serial port 106 and cellular telephone 126 (see Fig. 4). Here it is understood that phone modem 114 and decoder/multiplexer 112 are network connection devices.

Regarding Claim 3, Bernard's communication device has a Rockwell NavCore® VI MicroTracker™ Global Positioning System circuit card or network interface card for interfacing between serial/power interface connector 60 and GPS antenna 123 or network connector.

Regarding Claim 4, Bernard's communications device 100 has a phone jack 118 for coupling to a public switched telephone network.

Regarding Claim 5, Bernard's communications device 100 has a cellular telephone 126 for coupling to a mobile switching network.

Regarding Claim 6, Bernard imparts inserting communications device 100's remote serial/power interface connector 60 into both the DC power connector 50 and serial interface connector 52 of PDA 102, thus implying that PDA 102's externally accessible port is a serial port (see Col. 2, lines 65 - 67 and Col. 3, lines 1 and 34 - 38).

3. Claims 1, 5, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,324,380 (Kiuchi et al.).

Referring to Claim 1, Kiuchi teaches a base unit A or cradle, as shown in Fig.1, for a cellular phone B or portable communications device. Kiuchi's base unit A, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, comprises: (a) an electric connector 3 or port connector for coupling with the externally

Art Unit: 2635

accessible connector 12 of phone B (see Col. 9, lines 60 - 64; Col. 10, lines 56 - 67; and Col. 11, lines 1 - 2); (b) satellite radio section 42 that forms a network connector for coupling phone B, which is a mobile terrestrial phone coupled to a mobile terrestrial communication network or first network, to the Iridium satellite communication system or second network (see Col. 2, lines 45 - 53; Col. 13, lines 63 - 67; and Col. 14, lines 1 - 3 and 37 - 61); and (c) modulator/demodulator 43, channel CODEC 41, link layer 40, vocoder 39, and infrared (IR) transducer 3 that form a network communication device for interfacing between electric connector 3 and satellite radio section 42 of base station A.

Regarding Claim 5, Kiuchi's satellite radio section 42 is for coupling phone B is the Iridium satellite communication system, which is understood to be a mobile switching network as shown in Fig. 11.

Regarding Claim 7, Kiuchi imparts that when phone B is pushed down into base unit A, causing slide button 2 to lower into a set position, electric connector 3 is raised from its position in the bottom of base unit A to enter electric connector accommodation recess 12 of phone B (see Col. 9, lines 60 - 64; Col. 10, lines 56 - 67; and Col. 11, lines 1 - 2).

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- ♦ U.S. Patent No. 5,666,530 (Clark et al.): Clark teaches a handheld computer that communicates wirelessly with a first network via RF. The handheld computer is also able to communicate with the first network via a second network that is formed when the handheld computer is inserted into a cradle that is connected directly to the first network.
- ♦ U.S. Patent No. 6,097,308 (Albert et al.): Albert discloses a docking cradle for a pager in order to connect the pager to a computer. The docking cradle consists of an interface card and necessary port for the connection.

Art Unit: 2635

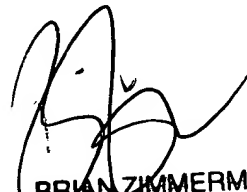
CR

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Clara Yang whose telephone number is (703) 305-4086. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 7:00 PM, Monday - Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Horabik can be reached on (703) 305-4704. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9314 for regular communications and (703) 872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

CY
April 17, 2003



BRIAN ZIMMERMAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER